

C. Remarks

The claims are 1, 2, 4 and 6-8, with claims 1 and 8 being independent.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify the invention. The amendments are fully supported by the application as filed (see Figure 1 and corresponding description in original specification at pages 7-8); accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Upon reviewing the application, it became apparent that the specification required amendment in order to more closely conform with proper idiomatic English and to correct minor typographical errors. A copy of the marked-up original specification, indicating the changes that have been made, is enclosed. No new matter has been added to the present application in the preparation of the substitute specification.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by AAPA (Applicants' admitted prior art). Claims 1, 2 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Potjer (U.S. Patent No. 5,851,566).

Claims 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' admitted prior art. Claims 2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of Poag (U.S. Patent No. 5,958,517). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 5,817,441). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Potjer in view of Poag. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Potjer in view of Applicants' admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The present invention is directed to a coating method and a method of rinsing a coating head as set forth broadly in amended claims 1 and 8. Importantly, the rinsing supply path through which a rinsing liquid is supplied to the coating head and the coating liquid supply path through which a coating liquid is supplied to the coating head are different. In other words, the rinsing liquid and the coating liquid do not share a pathway en route to the coating head. In this way, any adverse effects to a coating due to a rinsing process can be minimized. In addition, process efficiency is improved significantly and rinsing liquid consumption is reduced.

By contrast, the primarily cited references AAPA and Potjer both describe coating and/or rinsing methods in which the rinsing liquid and the coating liquid share a pathway en route to the coating head/slit. The Examiner acknowledged this difference with regard to AAPA; such difference is now clearly included in the claims. Further, this difference is clear when considering Potjer in which both rinsing liquid and coating liquid appear to share liquid passageways 76 and 82 en route to the preland 60, land 62 and

orifice 68 of the coating head. Hence, it is clear that the present invention is not anticipated by either of AAPA and Potjer, as neither reference discloses the above-discussed feature of the present invention, namely separate rinsing liquid and coating liquid supply paths. What is more, neither AAPA nor Potjer suggests such a presently claimed feature.

In addition, neither of the secondarily cited references Poag and Iwata remedy the deficiencies of AAPA and Potjer. Poag merely discloses a pulsed substrate rinsing technique; Iwata discloses a method of producing a color filter. Neither reference


teaches or suggests the supply of rinsing liquid to a coating head via one supply path and the supply of coating liquid to the coating head via a second path.

Accordingly, it is clear that one of ordinary skill in this art would not arrive at the coating method or rinsing method of the present invention given the combined disclosure of all of AAPA, Potjer, Poag and Iwata. None of the references provide any guidance or motivation to supply rinsing liquid and coating liquid to a coating head via separate rinsing liquid and coating liquid supply paths, as is presently claimed. In view of the differences between the present invention and the cited art, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue of the present case is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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